361 dustrial region with the tall wooden towers above the oil wells and the circular oil containers attached to the refineries. Campina and Ploesti are similar to the towns which sprang up during the American gold rushes. Great modern buildings stand next to primitive huts; fast American cars overtake peasant carts; rich speculators rub shoulders with shabby workers. These are towns in which extreme wealth and abject poverty live side by side.

BUCAREST. A similar, if somewhat more westernized, atmosphere reigns in Bucarest, the capital of Muntenia and of the whole of Rumania. Bucarest, which its more prosperous citizens like to call the 'Paris of the Balkans', has almost 1,000,000 inhabitants, and it has in many respects assumed the character of an American city. With ultra-modern buildings, wide thoroughfares bordered by shady alleys, and fast taxis the centre of Bucarest resembles the most modern of western cities. But the typical features of the Balkans have survived. Narrow little streets, quaint Orthodox churches, horse-carriages and hawkers are plentiful. Bucarest is the greatest industrial town of Rumania. Many factories of all
[366] descriptions are situated here. All the great commercial houses and banks, both Rumanian and foreign, have their head offices in Bucarest. The capital's importance is enhanced by its key position as a centre of communications. The main trunk road from Transylvania passing through the Predeal Pass, Sinaia, Campina and Ploesti links up in Bucarest with the roads leading south to the Danube, east to the Danube and the Black Sea and west to Oltenia.